

REMARKS

In the Office Action of September 24, 2007, claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-34, 36-43, 45, and 47-66 in this application were rejected under either 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-34, 36-43, 45, and 47-66 have been canceled. Claims 6, 16, 35, 44, and 46 were previously canceled. Claims 67-83 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 67-83 contain patentable subject matter.

Claim 67

To simplify and focus the presentation, Applicant has canceled the previously pending claims and added Claims 67-83. Independent Claim 67 incorporates many of the inventive aspects of Independent Claims 1, 29, 40, 49, and 58.

Claim 67 states, in part, “a first electronics device [134] including . . . a first network/electronics device interface module [176] connected between the first electronics device network output interface [174] and the first electronics device network input interface [172] and adapted to communicate over the data network;

a second electronics device [136] coupled to the first electronics device network output interface [174]. . . so that the first and second electronics devices can communicate directly without utilizing the data network or the gateway [Pathway A], . . .”

a third electronics device [142] including a third electronics device network input interface connected to the data network, the third electronics device adapted

to communicate over the data network with the first and second electronics devices without utilizing the gateway [Pathway B]."

To clarify, the first, second, and third electronics devices can be any electronics device such as an audio receiver, a CD player, a DVD player, a television, a computer, a video game player, a legacy device, a telephone, a consumer appliance, and/or speakers. (See Application, ¶ 380, 403, 427, and Fig. 11).

To elucidate one embodiment of the inventive topology described in Claim 67 and for illustrative purposes only, Applicant has appended the numerical designations from Figs. 11 and 13, both of which are reproduced below with highlighted portions reflecting the structure of the claim, to corresponding features/elements in the claim language recited above.

Claim 67 permits the "first and second electronics devices [to] communicate directly without utilizing the data network or the gateway" by the arrangement and interaction between the first electronics device network output interface 174, the first network/electronics device interface module 176, and the second electronics device via "Pathway A". The structure forming "Pathway A" can be clearly seen in Figs. 11 and 13. The direct communication between two devices that are part of a communication system is very advantageous because such communication does not burden or stress the data network or a gateway device. Reducing the burden on the network and gateway permits increased performance of the system. Further, the arrangement of Claim 67 also reduces the communication lag between the first and

second electronics devices as a direct path is available. Communication lag can also deteriorate system performance.

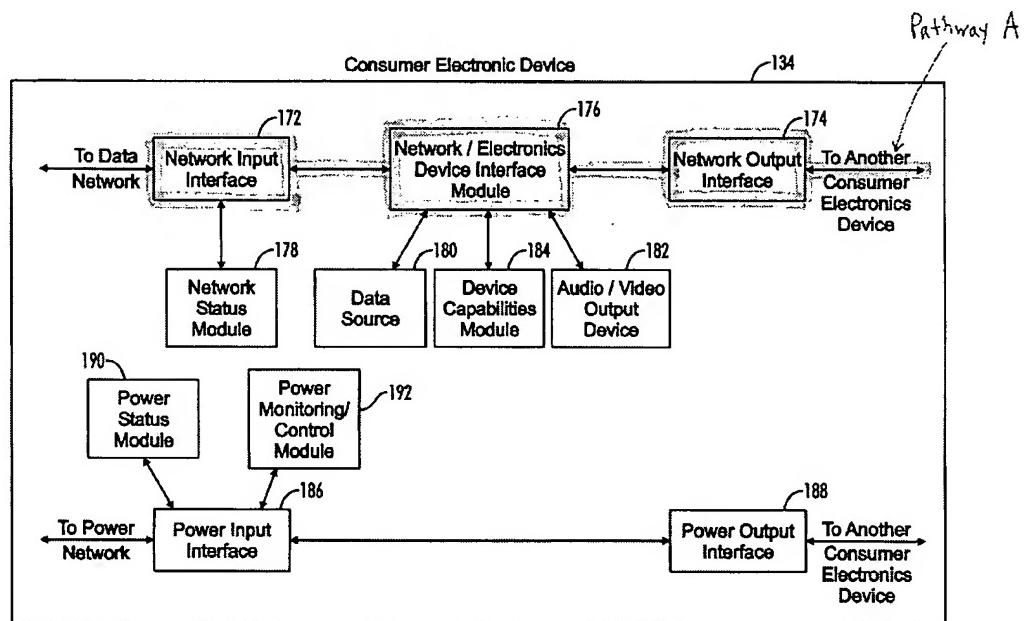


FIG. 13

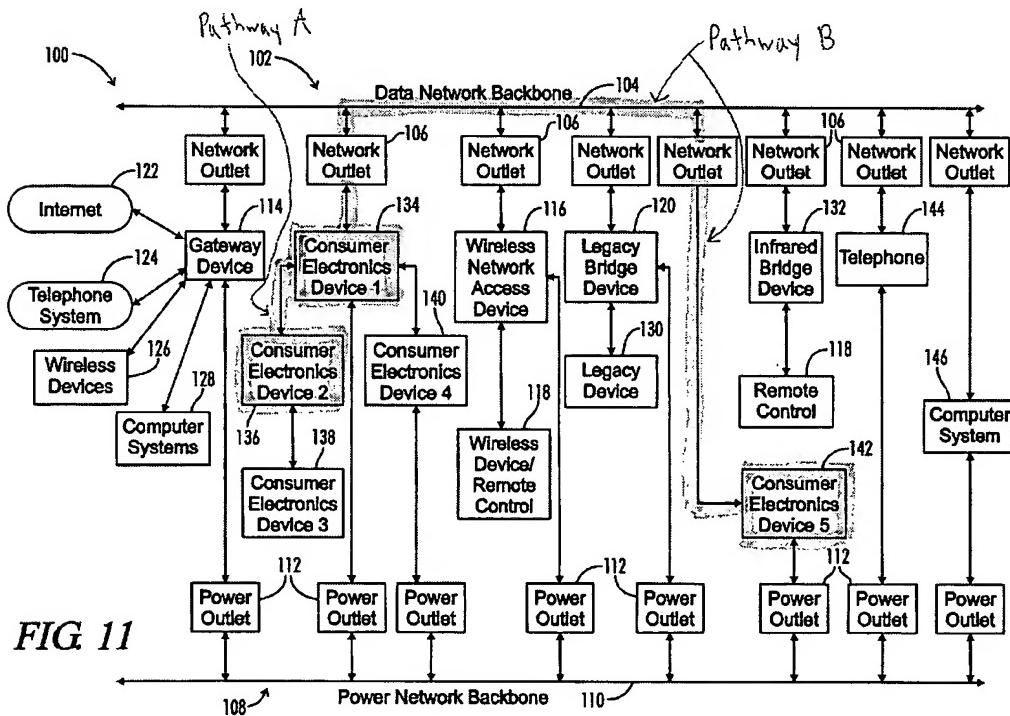


FIG. 11

Edson does not teach this architecture. Rather, Edson teaches an arrangement in which all communications must be routed by a central mechanism, e.g the gateway across a data network, as described in the following passages: “[t]he router 103[, a component of the gateway,] provides packet-switched routing to and from the various interfaces 121, 123 and 125, to enable communication between the various devices within by [sic] the premises,” *see* Edson, Col. 10, ln. 59-65; “a gateway provides communications internal to a premises,” *see* Edson, Col. 3, ln. 60-61; “[t]he programming for the central processing unit controls the data communications within the premises” *see* Edson, Col. 4, ln. 53-55.

Claim 67 also states that “the third electronics device [is] adapted to communicate over the data network with the first and second electronics devices without utilizing the gateway.” The structure of Claim 67 allows a pathway between two electronics that does not employ the gateway to facilitate the communication. This structure is exemplified by “Pathway B” shown in Fig. 11 above. As already presented, Edson does not disclose or suggest such a feature and, in fact, teaches that communications should go through the gateway so that they can be properly routed. *See* Edson, Col. 4, ln. 53-55; Col. 3, ln. 60-61; Col. 10, ln. 59-65. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 67 contains patentable subject matter.

Claims 68-83

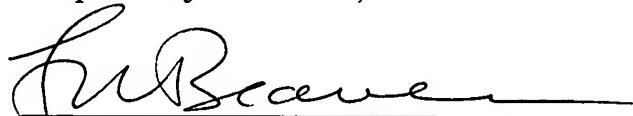
Claims 68-83 are dependent back to patentability distinct Claim 67 and, accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits Claims 68-83 contain patentable subject matter and include features not disclosed in the prior art.

Summary

Applicant has commented on some of the distinctions between the cited references and the claims to facilitate a better understanding of the present invention. This discussion is not exhaustive of the facets of the invention, and Applicant hereby reserves the right to present additional distinctions as appropriate. Furthermore, while these remarks may employ shortened, more specific, or variant descriptions of some of the claim language, Applicant respectfully notes that these remarks are not to be used to create implied limitations in the claims and only the actual wording of the claims should be considered against these references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 67-82 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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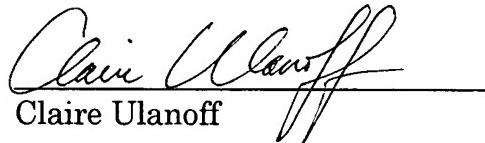
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